

Construction Days in St. George was a Big Success!

Construction is booming in St. George and construction jobs are plentiful statewide. To make young people aware of the many opportunities in the construction industry, two days of hands-on fun and good information greeted them at Construction Days, held at the Washington County Fairgrounds March 21 and 22.

The event was open to all students from the seventh through the twelfth grades, and their parents. All seventh graders in Washington County attended, as well as many from outlying communities. Boys and girls were able to try their hands at using construction equipment, learn how to pour cement, and talk to people from schools, companies, and DWS about careers in construction. The army and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) had exhibits, and there were even dump-truck driving simulators. St. George City showed how they make signs, and printed out labels for the kids.

While it appeared that all the students had fun, many girls especially said they were excited about the possibility of construction careers, and had never thought about working in construction before. Many jobs do not require a lot of physical strength or getting dirty, and wages for construction jobs are pretty decent. In fact, some occupations in construction can pay up to \$40,000 with no college required.



At the DWS booths we showed them how to look up career and wage information on construction jobs. Then we had contest to see who could look up a particular wage the fastest. We also passed out printed wage information, career publications, and the most recent TrendLines with advice for youth on finding a summer job.

Roughly 2,500 students attended the event sponsored by the Department of Workforce Services, Utah State University Extension and the Utah Local Technical Assistance Program. There were four sessions with three groups each that rotated through the various venues—exhibits, trades and heavy equipment. Each student received a tool bag with a hard hat, water bottle and safety glasses. Although the first day was raining and muddy, everyone seemed to have a good time and learn a lot. With construction expected to continue growing statewide, the future looks bright for any of these students who choose an occupation in construction. **T**